



Brownfields 2005 Grant Fact Sheet

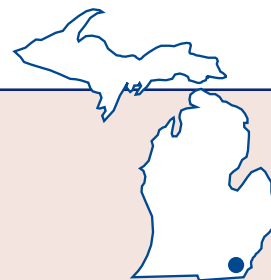
Downriver Community Conference, Wayne and Monroe Counties, MI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Downriver Community Conference (DCC) was selected to receive a job training grant. DCC established and coordinates the activities of the Downriver Area Brownfields Consortium (DABC), which is a syndicate created to address the environmental and



Job Training Grant

\$200,000

EPA has selected the Downriver Community Conference (DCC) for a job training grant. DCC plans to train 80 students, place 64 in environmental jobs, and track students for one year. The primary trainer for this program will be Wayne County Community College. Students will earn certification in HAZMAT awareness, HAZWOPER, confined space entry, asbestos contact supervisor initial training, lead worker, mold remediation supervisor, and field sampling skills development. Incentives to hire include on-the-job training contracts with employers, which pay up to 50 percent of new hires' wages during a specified training period. Students will be recruited from residents of the ten member communities in the Downriver Area Brownfields Consortium. Placement will be facilitated through the career development facilitators assigned to each student, DCC's job placement specialists who will maintain contact with area employers, and job fairs.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-4747
<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Downriver Community Conference, MI
734-362-3477

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

economic impacts of abandoned or underused contaminated properties in Wayne and Monroe Counties in

southeast Michigan. Each of the ten members of the DABC has been the recipient of an EPA-funded assessment grant, and five of the members also have received RLF grants. Poverty in DABC communities ranges from 2-13 percent, and unemployment ranges from 2.8-6.4 percent. Two of the highest-need communities, River Rouge and Ecorse, have median incomes under \$20,000, and between 36 and 43 percent of residents do not have a high school diploma. The state has identified 305 leaking underground storage tanks and 57 hazardous waste brownfields in the DABC area. Wayne County, the location of a number of DABC members, has approximately 2,000 identified brownfields sites. A survey of employers, environmental contractors, and brownfields site owners in the area indicated that trained environmental technicians are the number one employer need.